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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 S3-15 OMB-00 CODE-00
H-01 NMO-01 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00 TRSE-00 PM-09
PA-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 S15-03 ACDA-12 SSM-02 ICAE-00
SP-02 NCE-00 SPRS-02 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JRCOUNTRYMAN
APPROVED BY NEA:JWTWINAM
T:RAHERNE
S/S-O: WSBUTCHER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE
USLO RIYADH NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SO ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 057321

E.O. 12065:DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT

TAGS: MASS, PEPR, [illegible]

SUBJECT: F-15 ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

1. AT 10 A.M. PRESS OFFICER JO MARIE [illegible] DEPT SPOKESMAN'S MADE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING F-15 ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE:

BEGIN: WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH THE CONGRESS DURING THE PAST WEEK REGARDING THE SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN SECURITY CONDITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST/PERSIAN GULF REGION AND THE GROWING THREAT TO OUR FRIENDS THERE FROM SOVIET AND OTHER PROCURED. WE HAVE BENEFITED FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL VIEWS EXPRESSED AND PLAN TO CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH THE CONGRESS ON STEPS TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS IN THAT VITAL REGION. THE FIRST STEP IS TO HELP OUR FRIENDS DEFEND THEMSELVES AND TO REBUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE IN OUR RELIABILITY.

THE ADMINISTRATION WILL SHORTLY GIVE NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS OF OUR INTENTION TO SELL MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA. WE PROPOSE TO SELL TO THE SAUDIS CONFORMAL FUEL TANKS AND AIM-9L AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES WHICH WILL AUGMENT THE DEFENSIVE ROLE OF THEIR F-15 AIRCRAFT. WE HAVE AGREED TO SELL TO SAUDI ARABIA AERIAL SURVEILLANCE AIRCRAFT, SUBJECT TO FURTHER DETERMINATION OF THE R SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS. WE HAVE AGREED TO BE RESPONSIVE

ON PROVIDING A REFUELING CAPABILITY. WE WILL ALSO CONDUCT A TECHNICAL STUDY WITH THE SAUDIS TO DETERMINE THEIR AIR-TO-GROUND REQUIREMENTS FOR DEFENDING AGAINST THE THREAT OF INVASION.

WE, OF COURSE, ARE AWARE OF THE ASSURANCES THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION GAVE TO THE CONGRESS IN 1978 REGARDING THESE ITEMS. THE CRITICAL FACT TODAY IS THAT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE REGION HAVE CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, THE TURMOIL OF THE IRANIAN REVOLUTION, THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR AND THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOUTH YEMEN AND ETHIOPIA UNDERSCORE THE INSTABILITY IN THE REGION AND THE DANGERS OF SOVIET PENETRATION AND EXPLOITATION.

THESE PROPOSALS FOR MILITARY SALES ARE A SIGN OF OUR DETERMINATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MOVE DECISIVELY AND QUICKLY TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS, AND

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THOSE OF ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES, WHEN THEY ARE THREATENED.

END.

2. AT THE SAME TIME, UNDER SECRETARY BUCKLEY MET WITH SAUDI AMBASSADOR ALNEGHELAN AND CONVEYED TO HIM ESSENTIAL POINTS OF DECISION. AMBASSADOR WAS SUBSEQUENTLY PROVIDED WITH COPY OF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT NOTED IN PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE. STOESSEL

EBS

EBschmelzer 7/2/85